



**SAN ANTONIO**

**POLICE**

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**\*\*REVISED\*\***

## **News Release**

### ***OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING***

A preliminary investigation pertaining to an officer involved shooting reveals the following: On March 8, 2005, San Antonio Police Officer **Christopher Martinez**, a 4-year veteran, attempted to stop a vehicle for minor traffic infractions as that vehicle traveled northbound on Blanco Rd. **Officer Martinez** activated his emergency Red/Blue lights at Blanco Rd and Barchester, but the suspect vehicle refused to stop and evaded Eastbound on Barchester St. The pursuit then continued onto Dorset St. at which point the suspect suddenly stopped the vehicle. The suspect driver exited the vehicle and had what appeared to be a knife in his hand. **Officer Martinez** reports that the suspect then began to threaten his female passenger with what the officer believed to be a knife. As **Officer Martinez** ordered the suspect to drop his weapon, the suspect refused and began to chase **Officer Martinez** while holding the weapon. The foot chase continued back onto Barchester St where the suspect stopped in the yard of 615 Barchester. While standing in the yard, the suspect continued to threaten **Officer Martinez**, Officer Lohaus, a 10-year veteran, and Officer Mooney, a one-year veteran, who had arrived at the scene to assist **Officer Martinez**. While holding the weapon, the suspect lunged towards Officer Lohaus and Mooney placing them in fear for their lives. Both Officer Lohaus and Mooney fired their service weapons towards the suspect striking him several times. E.M.S. was called to the scene, however, the suspect was pronounced dead at the scene. It was then discovered that the weapon the suspect was threatening the officers with was in fact needle-nose pliers.

Found inside the suspect car was the suspect's ex-girlfriend and two young children. The suspect's ex-girlfriend reported that the suspect had "snorted" narcotics just prior to Officer Martinez's attempt to make the traffic stop. The suspect was also found to be wanted on the following arrest warrants: evading arrest, assault, driving while license suspended, and criminal trespass.

The suspect is identified as Paul J. Vara, 06-25-82.

The San Antonio Police Department's shooting Team is handling the investigation and will submit their findings to Police Chief Albert A. Ortiz and the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. As per policy, Officers Lohaus and Mooney will be placed on administrative duty while the investigation continues.

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***